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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/824,005	04/03/2001	Hirotake Watanabe	010368	6459

38834 7590 01/24/2005

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EXAMINER

SORRELL, ERON J

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2182

DATE MAILED: 01/24/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/824,005

Applicant(s)

WATANABE, HIROTAKE

Examiner

Eron J Sorrell

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 October 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 03 April 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

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DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shimura (U.S. Patent No. 5,758,041) in view of Hansen et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,442,144 hereinafter "Hansen") and further in view of Hatae et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,332,159 hereinafter "Hatae").

3. Referring to method claims 1 and 3, system claims 5,7, and 8, and apparatus claim 9, Shimura teaches a method and system comprising:

setting identification information to a network printer device by assigning identification information to each network device (see lines 45-52 of column 1);

outputting said identification information visually on said network printer device (see lines 55-67 of column 3);

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Shimura fails to teach the limitation of the setting of the identification information is carried out by means of management equipment and the limitation of indicating the network device with an identifier which is the same as said identification information onto a screen for network device management in a management equipment.

Hansen teaches a method and system for managing a plurality of network devices comprising setting identification information of network devices by means of server management equipment (see item labeled 102 in figure 1 and lines 19-28 of column 4) and indicating the network device onto a screen for network device management (see figure 5 and lines 54-62 of column 6).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant invention to modify the system and method of Shimura with the above teachings of Hansen. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to make such modification to allow the printer disclosed by Shimura to be assigned an ID over a network by an administrator rather than having the administrator travel to the printer to set an ID with a floppy disk as disclosed by Shimura (see lines 42-54 of column 3). Hansen suggests this is beneficial because sometimes networks can be large and expand over a large geographical error

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and it would be advantageous to manage the network from a management console (see lines 10-20 of column 2).

The combination of Shimura and Hansen fails to explicitly set forth the limitation of indicating the network device **with an identifier which is the same as said identification information** onto a screen for network device management in a management equipment (emphasis added), even though Hansen does teach indicating network devices on a screen for network device management (see lines 54-62 of column 6).

Hatae teaches, in an analogous system and method, indicating the network printer device with an identifier which is the same as said identification information onto a screen for network device management in a server management equipment (see item labeled 1002 in figure 10 and figure 11).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention to modify the combination of Shimura and Hansen with the above teachings of Hatae. One of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention would have been motivated to make such modification in order to uniquely manage a particular device if more than one device of the same type is present on a network which is usually the case in the large networks described by Hansen (see lines 10-20 of column 2).

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4. Referring to method claim 2, system claim 6, and apparatus claim 10, Hansen teaches retrieving a database having the identification information related to each network device (see lines 19-28 of column 4); and

assigning said identification information automatically to said network device (see lines 19-28 of column 4).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention to modify the system and method of Shimura with the above teachings of Hansen. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to make such modification in order to determine if the device is actually new to the system by making a comparison to the devices already in the database as suggested by Hansen (see lines 47-67 of column 2).

5. Referring to method claim 4 and apparatus claim 11, the combination of Shimura, Hansen, and Hatae fails to explicitly set forth the limitation that the identifier comprises a primary identifier and a secondary identifier respectively including a color and letter, however Shimura does disclose the identification information should be peculiar to each device (see abstract). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary

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skill in the applicant's invention to modify the combination of Shimura, Hansen, and Hatae such that the identification information comprises a primary identifier and a secondary identifier respectively includes a color and letter in order to uniquely distinguish the printers as either color or black and white and enumerate printers in each category in order to be able to differentiate one printer from one another.

Response to Arguments

6. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-11 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Eron J Sorrell whose telephone number is 571 272-4160. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 9:00AM - 5:30PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jeffrey A Gaffin can be reached on 571 272-4146. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

EJS

January 19, 2005



KIM HUYNH
PRIMARY EXAMINER

1/21/05